## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1	1.	A method for enhancing the functionality of an electronic message,		
2	compi	comprising the steps of:		
3		receiving the electronic message;		
4		obtaining a command instruction from the electronic message; and		
5		performing a function responsive to the step of obtaining.		
1	2.	The method of claim 1,		
2		wherein the command instruction indicates an application provider for		
3	perfo	rming the function.		
1	3.	The method of claim 1,		
2		wherein the command instruction is a Uniform Resource Locator ("URL").		
1	4.	The method of claim 1,		
2		wherein the step of performing a function includes the steps of:		
3		determining an application provider from the command instruction;		
4		and		
5		sending a Request to the application provider to perform the		
6		function.		
1	5.	The method of claim 4, including the step of:		

2		preparing the Request based on the command instruction.
1	6.	The method of claim 4, further including the steps of:
2		receiving a Response from the application provider; and
3		modifying the message responsive to receiving the Response.
1	7.	The method of claim 6, further including the step of:
2		sending the modified message to a destination.
1	8.	The method of claim 1,
2		wherein the command instruction includes:
3		a host and a file which indicate an application provider for
4		performing the function; and
5		at least one parameter which indicates information to be delivered
6		to the application provider.
1	9.	The method of claim 1,
2		wherein the command instruction is included in the received message as an
3	Intern	net shortcut file.
1	10.	The method of claim 4,
2		wherein the Request is sent using an HTTP POST command.

1	11.	An article of manufacture including an information storage medium		
2	where	wherein is stored information for programming a computer to:		
3		receive an electronic message having a destination address;		
4		alter the destination address of the message; and		
5		send the message based on the altered destination address.		
1	12.	An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming		
2	a com	a computer as in claim 11,		
3		wherein the altered destination address identifies a computing device which		
4	will p	erform a function on the message.		
1	13.	An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming		
2	a com	puter as in claim 11,		
3		wherein the message includes a command instruction which indicates an		
4	applic	application provider which will perform a function.		
1	14.	An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming		
2	a com	puter as in claim 11,		
3		wherein the message includes a return address, and wherein the computer		
4	is prog	grammed to modify the return address to identify a computing device which		

will perform a function responsive to a returned message.

5

1	15.	An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming
2	a com	puter as in claim 13,
3		wherein the command instruction includes:
4		a host and file which indicate the application provider for
5		performing the function; and
6		at least one parameter, and at least one associated value which
7		indicates information to be delivered to the application provider.
1	16.	An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming
2	a com	puter as in claim 11,
3		wherein a command instruction is included in the electronic message as an
4	Intern	et shortcut file.
1	17.	An apparatus for providing a function responsive to receiving a Request,
2	comprising:	
3		a processor; and
4		a processor readable storage medium in communication with the processor,
5	contai	ning processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:
6		receive the Request;
7		perform a function responsive to an instruction included in the
8		Request; and,
9		prepare a Response subsequent to performing the function.

- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 17,
- wherein the Response includes instructions and data, wherein the
- 3 instructions include information for disposal of the data.
- 1 19. The apparatus of claim 17,
- wherein the processor readable program code for programming the
- 3 computer to perform a function includes programming the computer to:
- deliver the Response using an HTTP POST command.
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 19,
- wherein the Response includes a parameter, a value associated with the
- 3 parameter, and a data stream.
- 1 21. The apparatus of claim 19,
- wherein the Request is in the form of an HTTP POST command.
- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 19,
- wherein the Request includes a host, a file, a parameter, a value associated
- 3 with the parameter, and a data stream.
- 1 23. The apparatus of claim 22,
- wherein the host and file indicate the apparatus for providing the function;
- 3 and

- 4 wherein the at least one parameter, and at least one associated value
- 5 indicate information to be delivered to the apparatus.